

Sanitized - Approved For Release CIA-RDP75-00149R000200900038-3

U.S. PSYCHE ON TOUCH

Fulbright's Inquiry Calls In Psychiatrists

By MARY McGRORY
Star Staff Writer

CPYRGHT

In a logical, but possibly risky, next step in his inquiry into American foreign policy, Sen. J. William Fulbright is calling in two psychiatrists.

Dr. Jerome Frank of the Johns Hopkins University Psychiatry Department and Dr. Charles Osgood of the University of Illinois' Institute of Communications Research will appear before the Foreign Relations Committee next Wednesday to explain the behavior of nations.

The chairman and the committee staff are a trifle dubious about offering this latest course at the Fulbright free university on Capitol Hill. Fulbright knows that all members of the committee and the public may not share his enthusiasm for an objective probing into the national psyche. The possibilities for satire are obvious, particularly if the specialists lapse into technical jargon.

He has urged both doctors to make their presentations as colloquial as possible, even at the peril of losing caste with their colleagues.

Quoted Copiously

Frank, now on leave from Johns Hopkins, has been in correspondence with the senator since 1961, when he first wrote him suggesting the relationship between behavior attitudes and foreign policy.

In his recent Herter lectures, the senator quoted copiously from Frank's writings. Recently they met in Washington, and the senator invited members of the committee in for a teatime exposition of Frank's theory of how ideology serves as a "filter" for information.

Frank contends that a person's ideology causes him to give meaning and pattern to otherwise odd bits of information.

He suggested the committee also consult Osgood, the author of "For Graduated Reciprocity in Tension Reductions" and "Alternative to War or Surrender."

To four fascinated members of the Foreign Relations Committee, Frank described an experiment in group behavior at a summer camp. A group of 12-year old boys was divided into two camps and conditions of rivalry and tension were created between them.

In the second step, the groups were brought together to communicate. All they did was intensify their hostility and escalate insults.

In the third phase, the two groups were confronted with situations that they could solve only by working together. They had to push a bus out of a ditch and contribute money for a film all wanted to see. Joint effort restored harmony between the two groups.

Frank told the committee he thought that the information gathered from the experiment might have "some validity" in the field of foreign affairs. The chairman is aware that some members of the audience, the committee and the public may be put off by this tale of manipulated emotions.

He also hopes that the psychiatrists' testimony will not be considered part of the inquiry into Viet Nam and China policies, and that too much will not be read into what the mind-doctors say.

Fears Delusions

He has been trying single-handedly since February to psychoanalyze the national character. He has pointed out in several speeches that Americans are behaving in an officious, not to say obnoxious manner. He compared the American in South Viet Nam to the Boy Scout who insists on helping an old lady across the street, whether she wants to go or not.

He is convinced that Americans, like their Puritan ancestors, have deluded themselves that their immense riches and power are a mark of divine favor, and that they feel they must remake the world in their own fortunate image.

He feels that he has had little success in persuading the country not to go the way of other wealthy and comfortable nations. He hopes that expert psychiatric testimony may help Americans to "see ourselves as others see us."